

may under proper treatment be changed to a favorable one,—even as to immediate results. Of especial interest are the plates from anatomical dissections showing the replacement and retention of supracondylar fractures by the hyperextension position, and the plates of the fractures of the type "Posadas," before and after treatment. L. E.

#### **TREASURY DEPARTMENT,**

##### **Bureau of Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.**

A board of commissioned medical officers will be convened to meet at the Bureau of Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, 3 B street, SE., Washington, D. C., Monday, April 8, 1912, at 10 o'clock a. m., for the purpose of examining candidates for admission to the grade of assistant surgeon in the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.

Candidates must be between 22 and 30 years of age, graduates of a reputable medical college, and must furnish testimonials from responsible persons as to their professional and moral character.

The following is the usual order of the examinations: 1, Physical; 2, oral; 3, written; 4, clinical.

In addition to the physical examination, candidates are required to certify that they believe themselves free from any ailment which would disqualify them for service in any climate.

The examinations are chiefly in writing, and begin with a short autobiography of the candidates. The remainder of the written exercise consists in examination of the various branches of medicine, surgery, and hygiene.

The oral examination includes subjects of preliminary education, history, literature, and natural sciences.

The clinical examination is conducted at a hospital, and when practicable, candidates are required to perform surgical operations on a cadaver.

Successful candidates will be numbered according to their attainments on examination, and will be commissioned in the same order as vacancies occur.

Upon appointment the young officers are, as a rule, first assigned to duty at one of the large hospitals, as at Boston, New York, New Orleans, Chicago, or San Francisco.

After four years' service, assistant surgeons are entitled to examination for promotion to the grade of passed assistant surgeon.

Promotion to the grade of surgeon is made according to seniority and after due examination, as vacancies occur in that grade.

Assistant surgeons receive \$1,600, passed assistant surgeons \$2,000, and surgeons \$2,500 a year. When quarters are not provided, commutation at the rate of \$30, \$40, and \$50 a month, according to grade, is allowed.

All grades above that of assistant surgeon receive longevity pay, 10 per cent. in addition to the regular salary for every five years' service up to 40 per cent. after twenty years' service.

The tenure of office is permanent. Officers traveling under orders are allowed actual expenses.

For further information, or for invitation to appear before the board of examiners, address "Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Washington, D. C."

#### **THE A. M. A. PRESS SERVICE TO NEWSPAPERS.**

The following is a circular letter sent out by the Press Bureau of the Council on Health and Public Instruction to all the five thousand and more papers on its list. In many instances the papers published this letter in full. It will show you a little of the attitude and of the nature of the work of the association in connection with publicity.

535 Dearborn avenue, Chicago, Jan. 2, 1912.  
To the Editor:

This is a circular letter. It has to be on account of the large number sent out. But it is as much a personal letter as though it had been written especially for you.

#### **Attacks on the Association.**

For some time past, the American Medical Association has been the subject of attack. Attempts have been made to mislead the public as to what it is and what it is doing. The newspapers themselves have originated very little of the "copy" used. It has been inspired by, and, in most cases, prepared by, those who have good reason to be hostile to the American Medical Association.

An organization has recently arisen whose principal object seems to be to attack the American Medical Association under cover of opposition to proposed health legislation. This organization owes its origin to those who were and are being injured by the work of the Association.

The American Medical Association has no secrets. It has no desire to keep from the public what it is doing. On the contrary, it wants the public to know what it is doing. It will then be apparent why the Association has incurred the enmity of certain interests.

#### **Frauds in Proprietary Medicines.**

About six years ago, the Association established a chemical laboratory at its headquarters in Chicago. Competent chemists began a systematic investigation of drug preparations made by proprietary houses and sold to druggists to be used by physicians. The results of these investigations were made public from time to time, many frauds and dishonest methods were exposed. These investigations revolutionized the proprietary medicine business and have greatly diminished the profits of dishonest firms. This explains the antagonism of those proprietary medicine firms which were found to be employing dishonest and fraudulent methods.

#### **Frauds in Patent Medicines.**

The Association laboratory later took up the investigation of so-called "patent" medicines—i. e., those sold directly to the public—exposing many frauds by which the sick are swindled. This explains the antagonism of the patent medicine interests.

#### **Frauds in Manufacture and Sale of Foods.**

Five years ago, after years of effort, Congress passed a Federal pure food law, the National Food and Drugs Act. The Association had agitated this question for many years and was active in securing the passage of the bill. Since the law became effective, the Association has labored to secure its enforcement and to prevent its emasculation. This explains the antagonism of the manufacturers and dealers in adulterated and sophisticated food products.

#### **Low Standard of Medical Education.**

A few years ago, medical education in this country was in a condition that was not creditable to the medical profession; and—what is more important—it resulted in admitting to the practice of medicine men who were untrained and who were not fit to treat the sick. Eight years ago, the Council on Medical Education was created by the American Medical Association, and a thorough investigation of medical education was made. The facts revealed by the investigation were published, and a periodic inspection of medical schools was inaugurated. The results of these inspections are published each year. This explains the antagonism of the poorly equipped proprietary medical colleges.

This is only a part of what the Association has been and is doing. This work is altruistic, and in it the American Medical Association is spending thousands annually.